



**Testimony of Carol Scully**  
**Director of Advocacy, The Arc of Connecticut, Inc.**  
**LCO No. 3835 S.B. 990 An Act Concerning Cost-Based Reimbursement For**  
**Federally Qualified Health Centers**

**February 13, 2023**

Members of the Human Services Committee: Co-Chair Representative Gilchrest, Co-Chair Senator Lessor, Vice Chair Senator Herron Gaston, Vice Chair Representative Lucy Datham, Ranking Member Senator Lisa Seminara, Ranking Member Representative Jay Case, Senator Mahar, Representative Butler, Representative Cook, Representative Comey, Representative Exum, Representative Fortier, Representative Hughes, Representative Johnson, Representative Keitt, Representative Leeper, Representative Santiago, Representative Buckbee, Representative Ferraro, Representative Mastrofrancesco, Representative Pizzuto, Representative Polleta

The Arc Connecticut is the oldest and the largest community-based organization advocating for and with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. We work tirelessly to uphold our vision that every individual and family living with I/DD has access to the information, advocacy, and skills they need to support their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.

We are a chapter of The Arc of The United States, which has 675 chapters in 49 states and over 5,000 service locations. Nationwide, we have approximately 7,000 board members, 124,000 staff, 46,000 volunteers and collectively we serve more than 1 million people with I/DD and their family members.

In Connecticut, our 14 Arc local chapters deliver over \$100 million in jobs, supports and services to thousands of people in 162 communities. Together Arcs are the largest provider of supports and services for people with I/DD and their families in the state, providing about 96% of the services.

The Arc of Connecticut supports S.B. 990, a bill that proposes a cost-based reimbursement for federal health care centers. The Arc CT believes that providers of community health care centers should be reimbursed for the actual cost of care and agree that this cost should be based on the previous two years' worth of data. This support does, however, come with a caveat, that if the health care center does not have accessible medical equipment or health care providers willing to treat the disability community or providers currently treating persons with disabilities, then we provide conditional support, pending the health care center providing documentation of accessibility and data supporting their care of the disability community. If no such documentation is available, The Arc CT rescinds its support of S.B. 990. We believe this is an equity and access issue and that the state needs to ensure access to healthcare for everyone.

Access to healthcare for persons who are disabled is mandated by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Currently, there is a lack of accessible healthcare including providers and medical equipment for persons with disabilities in Connecticut.

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